

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01311 121104Z

21 11

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-10 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 OMB-01

PPT-02 /155 W

----- 085243

O 121040Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0631

INFO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: TOURISTS STRANDED AT CAIRO

REF: STATE 201548 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE WE DID NOT RECEIVE CAIRO 3041 AND HAVE REQUESTED IT BY SERVICE, BELIEVE ITS INFO ABOUT TRAVEL OF TOURISTS OUTDATED. HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH UK EMBASSY WHICH HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL MESSAGES FROM CAIRO ON SUBJECT OCT 11 AND 12. FIRST STATED THAT BUSING WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE OCT 11. SECOND STATED IT DUE OCT 14 - 15 WITH AN OVERNIGHT STOP AT UNSPECIFIED PLACE. THIRD SAID THAT LATEST WORD FROM EGYPTIANS WAS THEY LOOKING AT POSSIBILITY OF EVACUATION BY SEA OR BY SPECIAL EGYPTIAN FLQGHTS CAIRO TO BENGHAZI.

2. FURTHERMORE, FOLLOWING UP OUR TALK WITH MFA CHIEF OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS RE QUESTION OF NECESSITY FOR LIBYAN
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01311 121104Z

VISAS (TRIPOLI 1308), UK CHARGE OCT 12 CALLED CHIEF OF

PROTOCOL TO URGE VISAS BE WAIVED OR THAT AT LEAST THIS POINT BE CLARIFIED. REPLY WAS THAT LARG IMMIGRATION HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED "TO PROVIDE EVERY FACILITY AT THE BORDER" BUT THAT "SOME DOCUMENTATION" WOULD BE NECESSARY.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS NOT VERY REASSURING. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH ME, UK CHARGE IS RECOMMENDING THAT EFFORT BE MADE TO GET GOE TO HAVE LARG CLEARLY COMMIT ITSELF TO A WAIVER OF THE NORMAL REQUIREMENT FOR A TRANSIT VISA. HE AND I FEEL THAT GOE HAS A STRONG MOTIVE AND IS IN BEST POSITION TO OBTAIN THIS RESULT.

4. MEANWHILE WE ARE PLANNING TO SEND TO BENGHAZI OCT 13 ONE OF OUR BILINGUAL LIBYAN EMPLOYEES OF CONSULAR SECTION, SALEM BEN SRETI. HE WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE THERE IN HIS LIAISON/WELFARE FUNCTION FROM A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF SAME SECTION AND OUR FORMER OFFICE AT BENGHAZI, LEFTERI LERIAS. THEY WILL SEEK OUT AND OFFER TO HELP ANY AMERICANS WHO TRANSIT BENGHAZI.

JOSIF

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